

# THE UNIQUENESS OF THE FIGHT AGAINST RUSSIAN INVADERS IN THE SHAHRISABZ REGION

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## KEYWORDS

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## ABSTRACT

This article covers the period from the 60s to the 70s of the XIX century, namely the Emir of Bukhara: the reasons for the disobedience of the Shahrisabz to the Emirate of Bukhara under Amir Muzaffar, the incompetence of Emir Muzaffar against the Russian invasion, the Abdumalik Torah movement, The brogan struggle of Bobobek and Jorabek against the Russian invasion.

## INTRODUCTION

Today, large-scale reforms are being consistently carried out in order to lay the foundation of a new Uzbekistan - the Third Renaissance, to ensure human interests and freedoms. "We must understand our national identity, study the ancient and rich history of our Motherland, strengthen scientific research in this regard, and comprehensively support the activities of scientists in the humanitarian field"[1]. Historical science is the most fundamental of universal human values.

The study of the socio-economic and political processes that took place in Shakhshabz, one of the ancient historical and cultural districts of Uzbekistan, in the 60s and 70s of the 19th century, is one of the relatively unexplored issues in historical science. After all, in the words of our First President, "It is undoubtedly appropriate to talk about the great historical and cultural heritage of the Kashkadarya oasis. Today, this fact is recognized not only by the Central Asian region, but also by the

whole world." During this period, the Shahrisabz principality played a significant role in the economic and political life of the Bukhara Emirate.

In this article, it is appropriate to analyze the studies devoted to the period of the 60s-70s of the 19th century into three groups. The first group consists of memoirs written by the military of the Russian Empire, tourists, orientalist and representatives of other fields, as well as various literature published in the 19th-early 20th centuries. The second group includes literature published on the subject during the Soviet period. The third group consists of literature published during the years of independence and research conducted.

In later studies on the historiography of the subject, in particular, in the publications of A.Kh. Hamroyev, O.D. Chekhovich, M.A. Abduraimov, A.Madjlisov, written sources and archival documents were analyzed, and in the works of T.G. Tukhtametov, B.I. Iskandarov, A.R. Muhammadjonov,

T.Nematov, A.M. Aminov, N.A. Khalfin, N.A. Kislyakov, I.K. Khidoyatov, B.Kh. Karmishyeva, G.Yu. Astanova and other scholars, the level of economic development, Russian-Bukhara relations, trade and economic relations, types of economy, ethnic composition, population distribution along the oasis territories, and various aspects of the history of socio-political relations were reflected. In 1942, M.Ye. Masson and G.A. Pugachenkova conducted scientific research on the historical topography of Shakhrisabz and Kitab. In 1948, O.A. Sukhareva conducted ethnographic research in Shakhrisabz. Archaeological research in the Kashkadarya oasis has been widely studied since the 1950s, and in 1963, the Kesh Archaeological Topographic Expedition (KATE) of Tashkent State University was organized. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the research of M.Ye. Masson, G.A. Pugachenkova, O.A. Sukhareva, V.L. Voronina, M.K. Rakhimov, E.M. Pyeshereva, L.Yu. Mankovskaya, T.Abdullaev, N.I. Krashennnikova, G.Ya. Dryesvyanskaya, Z.I. Usmanova and others related to this period.

General Chernyaev, who was appointed military governor of the Turkestan region, launched an undeclared war against the Bukhara Emirate in January 1866 to subjugate it. Under his command, troops marched towards Jizzakh. Hearing this news, Emir Muzaffar, whom he had restored to the throne and considered under his influence, ordered the Kokand Khan Khudoyar to block the way for the Russians. Khudoyar Khan, fearing a clash with Russia, did not carry out Emir Muzaffar's decree. The Russian invaders waged war against the Bukhara Emirate for two military seasons, 1866-1868. As a result of the invasions carried out in 1866, the territories of the emirate near Oratepa, Jizzakh and Yangi Kurgan were incorporated into Russia. In the second military season of 1868, the capture of Samarkand and the crushing defeat of the emir's troops at Zirabulak took place.

In 1866-1867, when the Tsar's troops began their march against Jizzakh, Bobobek and Jurabek consulted with each other. They agreed to help Emir Muzaffar and to march against the enemy with their own troops.

According to Mirzo Abdulazim Sami's "Tarihi Salatini Mangitiya", when the Russian army was stationed at the Soyboy fortress on the way from Jizzakh to Samarkand[2], the Bukhara army saw the readiness of the battle at a place called Gishtkoprik. Emir Muzaffar appointed Shukurbiy Inaq, an experienced and intelligent commander, as his commander-in-chief. In the meantime, two thousand soldiers from Shakhrisabz, led by Hakimbek Kitab and Jurabek, arrived to help. Shakhrisabz and Kitab beks sent a letter to Shukurbiy Inaq, saying, "It is not right for us to be at odds with the emir when an enemy comes to the country. Let us fight against the enemy as an alliance, and reconcile us with the emir." Shukurbiy Inaq approved the beks' proposal and assigned them a place. However, some short-sighted people, jealous of Shukurbiy Inaq's increased position, misinterpreted the help from Shakhrisabz and Kitab to the emir, as if Shukurbiy Inaq had joined forces with the Kenagas and plotted against the emir. When the Kenagas said this, the emir, whose heart was pounding, believed this insinuation. He sent Abdulkadir Devanbey to Gishtkoprik, to the headquarters of the army that was preparing for battle. Abdulkadir Devanbey found an excuse and managed to turn back the army of Shakhrisabz and Kitab. Shukurbiy Inaq was deceived and brought to the emir's horde. Shukurbiy Inaq was accused of conspiracy and arrested.[3]

Here, the following painful words of Abdulla Qodiri in his "Romance of Bygone Days" from the language of Yusufbek Haji fit the above situation: I have lost my mind that the careerist and ambitious tyrants who do not know what an alliance is, who eat each other up for their own benefit and personality, will not disappear from the soil of Turkestan before we become people. If we leave in this state, it is likely that the tsarist tyranny will soon take over our Turkestan." Indeed, this happened. As a result of the policy pursued by Amir Muzaffar, the Russians easily conquered our country[2].

In 1868, Russian troops invaded the borders of the Bukhara Emirate. Feelings of hatred for the invader and love for the

Motherland aroused the entire population of the emirate. In this regard, the courage shown by the young men of Shahrissabz, the homeland of Amir Temur, is worthy of admiration. The battle between the Russian troops and the Shahrissabz cavalry at the village of Kara Tapa is a vivid example of this. Note the words of the artist Vereshchagin, who was the only witness to this event: The Caucasian spy officer Pistalkars was sent to intercept a group of Uzbek soldiers from Shahrissabz and Kitab coming from the southeast.

He first defeated the Shahrissabzites[11], but as soon as he reached his destination, they united again and struck such a blow that they overtook the Russian soldiers as far as Samarkand. General Kaufman rode out to meet the returning detachment. As soon as they left the city, they opened fire, and as a result, von Kaufman retreated, the war ended.

Having turned their backs on Amir Muzaffar, Hakimbek and the Jorabeks wrote a letter to Abdumalik Tora, expressing their support and obedience to him in the path of the holy jihad against the Russians. Patriotism required the beys who were at odds with the emir to ally with his son, who saw the readiness of the Russians to fight.[4] Finally, when the supporters of Abdumalik Tora gathered and numbered several thousand, the campaign against the Russians began due to the union of Hakimbek and Jurabek. They left Guzar and headed for Samarkand via Shahrissabz. Hakimbek and Jurabek joined Abdumalik Tora with their forces. It should be noted that Abdumalik Tora, Jurabek, Bobobek, and other Uzbek, Tajik, Turkmen, and Karakalpak leaders who attacked the Russian garrison in Samarkand while the battle of Zirabulak was ongoing, continued their hostilities until June 8. Kaufman, in his report to the Minister of War, indicates that the Shahrissabz people who besieged Samarkand numbered 25,000.

Kaufman was forced to admit the heavy losses in the Samarkand garrison. In their desire to liberate Samarkand, Muzaffar's eldest son Abdumalik Tora (1848-1909) and the erkevere beks Jurabek and Bobobek, as well as Sultan Sodiq, joined forces. The united patriotic forces solemnly proclaimed Abdumalik Tora as Amir in Amir Temur's Oqsaroy. Muzaffar's officials, Khudoyor, Abdulla Ibrahim, and most scholars agreed with this and recognized Muzaffar's dethronement. After Shahrissabz, the patriotic forces occupied Karshi. Karmana Chiraqchi soon fell under their control. Amirzoda appointed Sultan Sodiq, a loyal son of the Kazakh people who had fought hard against the Russians, as the governor of the Karmana region. The commanders of the Kitab governor, Jurabek, and the Shahrissabz governor, Bobobek, who were opposed to the emir, tried to gather all the forces of the people in support of the expedition announced by Abdumalik Tora[4]. The governor-general of Turkestan, von Kaufman, was anxiously watching the developments. According to the peace treaty, he could not interfere in the internal affairs of Bukhara, so he was looking for a convenient opportunity and excuse. In the fall of 1868, the appeal of the emir Muzaffar for help in the fight against the rebels who had occupied the entire eastern part of the emirate became a turning point for von Kaufman. General Abramov, the head of the Zarafshan district, which was formed at the expense of the conquered territories of Bukhara, was instructed to take all measures to assist the emir. He was instructed to take all measures to give the Russians a legal character to their interference in the affairs of Bukhara. Abramov began military operations with a large army. Although on the threshold, the Bukhara patriots fought fiercely against the enemy, who was superior in numbers and weapons. Jurabek and Bobobek, as well as Sultan Sodiq, demonstrated their skillful commanders in battles with the army of General Abramov. However, it was immediately clear that the forces were unequal. Abdumalik retreated to Shahrissabz. Together with the Russians, the soldiers of Emir Muzaffar began to occupy the territories occupied by the patriots one after another[3]. Abdumalik and Sultan Sodiq were forced to flee to the Khiva Khanate[4]. The Kitab governor Jurabek and the Shahrissabz governor Bobobek continued their patriotic struggle, threatening the Bukhara emir Muzaffar and his patron against the Russian invaders. The Emir of Bukhara, Muzaffar, turned to von Kaufman

in 1870 for help in the fight against Jurabek and Bobobek, the governorates of Kitab and Shahrisabz, which had become centers of patriotic forces throughout the emirate.

In the early spring of 1870, General Abramov, in a panic, with 6 companies, a battery of 200 Cossack cavalry and a rocket division, set out to punish the population of the upper reaches of Zarafshan, who were rising against the Russian invaders, and reached a place called Iskanderkul. The second group, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Dennett, was thrown into the upper reaches of the Motchokh River. Having ended the massacres in the upper Zarafshan on June 25, the Russians declared that these places had passed under the jurisdiction of the Russian Tsar, and in the Kulikalon area, despite the fact that the Shakhrisabz people showed great perseverance in the battle, the superiority in the ratio of weapons caused the Russians to win. [7] The Shakhrisabz army retreated in an orderly manner. The need to give the Shakhrisabz people the respect they deserved required the continuation of military operations, and General Abramov's detachment crossed the mountain pass and descended into the valley of the principality. [7] The diary of the invasion war to capture Shahrisabz and Kitab was written long before this by Major General Abramov. To be more precise, the conquest of Shahrisabz and Kitab was under the constant supervision of the Governor-General of Turkestan Kaufman, and the commander Abramov informed him in detail about the military action plan and the results of its implementation. The reason for this was that in the summer of 1868, the 25,000-strong army of Shahrisabz and Kitab, led by Bobobek and Jurabek, had shaken the Russian garrison in Samarkand until June 8[9]. D.N. Logofet's "When the detachment of Russian troops of General Abramov entered the Shahrisabz region, the Bukhara army approached the city from the west. The words "Shakhrisabz, which was besieged on three sides and captured Kitab and Yakkabag, fled to Kokand" are a hidden evil, such as the preference for personal justice and internal conflicts over the interests of the homeland and the people and nation, which have been going on for centuries[2].

Emir Muzaffar took advantage of the opportunity of vassalage to the Russians, as it was beneficial for both sides. Thus, the ancient cities of Shahrisabz and Kitab, which were caught in the whirlpool of two-sided invasion, were conquered by the Russians. Emir Muzaffar became an instrument and an active participant in the conquest of this land. D.N. Logofet wrote about this, saying that the great beys of Shahrisabz and Kitab, which were taken in exchange for the power of Russian weapons and the abundant Russian blood that had been shed, were given to the Emirate of Bukhara[5].

The two subordinate beys were given to Emir Muzaffar. Bobobek and Jurabek, accompanied by 200 people, went to Kokand. Their goal was to gather strength again and liberate Shahrisabz and Kitab. However, although the Kokand Khan, who wanted salvation, received them well, his intentions were evil. He was afraid of being separated from the Governor-General of Turkestan. For this reason, he quickly sent Bobobek and Jurabek to Tashkent to be taken into the Russian custody.

Kaufman, who was well-versed in military science and knew that the Turkestan Governor-General had an enmity with Emir Muzaffar and Khudoyorkhan, considered it advantageous to recruit Bobobek and Jurabek and wanted to take advantage of their prestige among the people[10]. They were given military ranks, and Bobobek was promoted to the rank of colonel. Jurabek was given the rank of major[11].

In conclusion, due to the indifference of Amir Muzaffar, the Russians did not encounter significant resistance in conquering the territory of the Bukhara Emirate. After the establishment of the Bukhara-Russian Empire protectorate, the socio-economic and political situation in the regions did not change significantly, and people who were dissatisfied with the emir's policy were repressed. The Shahrisabz and Kitab beys fought bravely against the Russian invaders, but only the Russians, who were superior in weapons and numbers, achieved victory. Unable to subjugate Shahrisabz and Kitab beys, Amir Muzaffar established his rule over this region with the help of the Russians. The Russian

general Abramov made great preparations against Shahrisabz and Kitab and reported on each of his actions to Kaufman in writing. Because the Russians had hardly stopped the fighters from Shahrisabz in Samarkand during the war against the Bukhara Emirate. Therefore, they waged the war against Shahrisabz based on careful plans.

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